



WHO'S RUNNING THE SHOW at K.Q.E.D?!

by Gareth Barkin

Bernal Heights resident David Weir recently became the Executive Vice-President of KQED — the Bay Area's premier public television and radio station. What we didn't know is that he has also been an investigative journalist for every major network (plus CBS), and edited six magazines including *Mother Jones* and *Rolling Stone*.

I found the KQED building hidden among warehouses, announced by an overhanging sign which featured letters of a typeset that has been unpopular since the mid-sixties. An assigned, government font, perhaps? Appropriate, it seemed to me, that the hard earned moneys of public television not be spent on aesthetic vanities. Only later was I told that KQED had only occupied the building for the last four years. 'Perhaps they moved the sign from their last place,' I rationalized hopefully.

Walking into a stark white arrival area, I discovered two receptionists huddled behind a slim and equally white barrier which grew out from a nearby wall. Behind them was a single modest television of approximately nineteen inches, as such things are measured. It had been mounted within the wall like a game-show monitor, but unlike most game-shows, it was alone, and not part of a massive grid. To make matters worse, it was displaying 'Lambchop', the ancient sheep puppet made popular during some bygone decade in which I had not participated. The puppet, little more than a garnished sock, was being paraded around by its disturbingly unhidden operator — an older woman preserved in heavy make-up. Although she seemed vividly out of place on public television (could it be all those "Hollywood Squares" episodes?), her presence seemed strangely in keeping with the game-showesque environment. Where were Ernie and Bert? Or rather, what had she done with them? My instinct was to hold her personally responsible.

"Is that what's on Channel 9 right now?" I asked the receptionists, hoping that the answer would be 'No.'

"Yes," came the reply, "but don't look at it. This is the morning; it's not usually like this." One of them thrust her hands in front of the monitor to block my view. A subtle feeling of surrealism crept over me. Was I in the right place?

I was. Soon someone arrived to escort me up. Apparently I had been judged in need of an escort. In Mr. Weir's office was a large, circular table upon which lingered a number of plastic coffee pitchers -- the insulated sort with the puzzling screw-on tops. As I began to pour myself a cup of coffee, Mr. Weir came in and sat down with me at the table. At the same time, I became aware that no coffee was coming from the pitcher. I had not yet introduced myself, and time was running out. I had to act. Inexplicably, I found myself behaving as though my coffee dispensing attempt had been successful. I said 'Hello, how are you,' and began to pantomime long, indulgent sips from what was, in fact, an empty mug. Well, not entirely empty, as it became apparent that someone had been using it in the recent past. By the time I realized the insanity of what I was doing, it was too late.

And so began my education into the plight of the public television station in these United States. The interview was very informative. For example, you might not know that:

- KQED is the most watched public television station (in the country, presumably).
- They only get ten percent of their funding from the government. That's right, 10%.
- The F.C.C. dictates what sort of commercials they can show, and how long they can be.
- They call their commercials "Expanded Underwriting Credits."
- "Expanded Underwriting Credits" can now be 30 seconds long (used to be 15).
- They didn't have them at all until the mid 80's, when Congress decided they should.

I could go on, and I will. I don't know if you've noticed, but channel 9 is showing advertisements these days. I was a child of the seventies,

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David Weir

Photo by Howard Gelman

VIGIL AGAINST VIOLENCE



Friends, family and neighbors walked in a candlelight vigil on July 30 to remember Mrs. Consuelo San Augustin who died from the wounds she received after being brutally attacked at the corner of Ellsworth Street and Crescent Avenue.

By Vicki Victoria

The friends, family and neighbors of Mrs. Consuelo "Connie" San Augustin gathered at St. Kevin's Church on the evening of July 30 for a candlelight vigil in her memory. Many others who did not know Mrs. San Augustin, but were as upset by her senseless death, also came to mourn the beloved mother and wife.

On Friday, July 21, at 6:00 a.m., Mrs. San Augustin, 62, waited for the bus at Ellsworth Street and Crescent Avenue to take her to church and then to work. Two men brutally pistol-whipped her in order to steal her purse. She died four days later

from the inflicted wounds.

"This brutal attack resulted in the death of a very gentle woman," said Father Joseph Walsh, Pastor of St. Kevin's Church. "This vigil makes a statement to our community, to our city and to the perpetrators, that this atrocious act is abhorred with every fiber of our bodies."

"We light candles here tonight to lead Connie home," said lector Dan Rosen, "and this light will also lead us together as we unite against violence."

The congregation, solemnly

Continued on page 3...

Bayview/ Hunters Point Power Plant Update

By Wendy Brummer-Kocks

Bernal Heights residents have been organizing their efforts with neighbors in the Bayview/Hunters Point neighborhoods in order to stop a proposed power plant from being built in their area. Residents of Bernal and Potrero Hill would also suffer direct effects of toxic air pollutants, if the plant is built.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) held evidentiary hearings regarding the proposed 240 megawatt plant on July 11-14. These hearings allow the San Francisco Energy Co. (the company which has applied for the permit to build the plant), the CEC Staff, and interveners to present testimony in favor of or against the proposed plant. The CEC commissioners will be making their final decision on whether or not to permit the plant in September.

Bad Air Already

The San Francisco Department of Public Health is releasing a report which refers to a 1992 study done by the State of California indicating people in Bayview/Hunters Point have the highest rate of asthma and bronchitis in the city and county of San Francisco. Based on hospital discharge records, there were 657 cases in the area, out of 1551 cases throughout the city.

This, undoubtedly, comes as no surprise. As San Francisco's industrial area, Bayview/Hunters Point has served as home to the majority of the city's polluting industries. With the threat of a third power plant proposed for this area,

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Rick Lo delivers the mail while keeping an eye on our elderly and on our homes.

People on the Hill Bernal's unofficial guardian angel

By Vicki Victoria

It's a windy morning and the fog is still blocking out the sun's warm rays. Nevertheless, postal carrier Richard "Rick" Lo still wears his trademark shorts while he happily whistles up and down the streets of Bernal Heights, delivering residents their mail.

For over 12 years Lo has delivered thousands of pieces of mail to hundreds of homes on the Hill. During that time, he has gotten to know the neighborhood and its people and houses very well. Luckily for Bernal Heights, he's more than just the postal carrier, he's also our unofficial guardian.

On the morning of June 27,

Lo noticed that something wasn't quite right at 215 Bocana Street. "I noticed that the glass on the door was discolored and cracked... I knew something was wrong. Then I noticed that the mail slot was charred so I bent down low to look inside and saw smoke." Lo immediately began ringing the door bell and banging on the door to see if anyone was inside. When no one answered, he tried the two other doors of the building's three units. Remembering that the

Continued on page 4...

new Bernal Journal

515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110 • (415) 206-2144

The *New Bernal Journal* is a bi-monthly neighborhood newspaper sponsored by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with community news, ideas, issues, and events that support the Center's mission: "To empower people in efforts to preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of Bernal Heights and improve the economic condition of low and moderate income people in Bernal Heights." The *New Bernal Journal* is distributed door to door, free in Bernal Heights. Articles express the views of contributors and not necessarily those of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

For Advertising Call: 206-2144

Next Issue: October '95 Distribution Date: 10/7/95

Deadlines: Editorial/Submission: 9/15/95

Advertising Space Reservation: 9/22/95. Camera Ready Ads: 9/29/95.

We reserve the right to edit for clarity or space.

Circulation for this issue: 8,000

New Bernal Journal Staff/Volunteers

Editor	Vicki Victoria
Assistant Editor	Gareth Barkin
Art Production	Victoria Graphics
Photos	Helen Helffer, Gareth Barkin, Vicki Victoria
Distribution	David Rogers & a cast of hundreds!
Contributors	Helen Helffer, Dorothy Coakley, Elizabeth Robinson, David Graves, Rick Young, Barbara Pitschel, Gloria Allen, Greg Gavin

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The Egg Toss was just one of many family games enjoyed at the July 4th BBQ at Precita Park. Over 500 neighbors came out for fun, sun, food, and games in what hopes to be an annual community gathering.

Photo by Helen Helffer

Letters

Protect the Hill's ecosystem

I was greatly saddened to see recently that a few trees at the end of the north side of Bonview Street were cut down in preparation for excavating a new building site. Saddened at the loss of not only an important habitat for wildlife but also something appreciated for whatever reason by someone in the community. For I remember reading a notice posted on the hill a year or two ago alerting people that the trees were in danger of being lost to a housing develop-

ment. I also remember that I did nothing to respond to that concern.

It is out of a personal feeling of regret at having failed to respond to that notice that I make the following proposal: that a standing committee of interested Bernal Heights residents be formed to protect and preserve as much as possible the ecosystem of Bernal Hill. By ecosystem I mean all the forms of life, both animal and plant, that either inhabit the hill or enjoy it for recreation, and in so doing give value to its continued existence without further unnecessary diminution. Anyone interested in forming such a group is invited to call me, 824-3404. - *David Graves*

Without volunteers, Bernal may lose its SHARE

The Self Help and Resource Exchange (SHARE) is a community development project that brings change through community involvement: people working with people to rebuild communities within. By pooling their time, money and energy, SHARE participants collectively buy food and perform volunteer work in order to receive a nutritious box of groceries monthly. Bernal Heights immediately needs volunteers to coordinate this effort in our community.

SHARE volunteers in Bernal

Heights will help to register participants, collect money, and organize the distribution day's transportation and boxing of food.

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center at 515 Cortland Avenue is the Host Site for SHARE in our community and distribution days occur monthly on a Saturday morning.

SHARE is committed to the idea that people working together on behalf of themselves and others can bring about enormous change for the good in the quality of their individual lives, in the life of their communities, and by extension, to the whole world.

Interested volunteers can call Anne Williams at SHARE, (800) 499-2506.

Don't miss the next two issues of the *New Bernal Journal* October '95 and November '95

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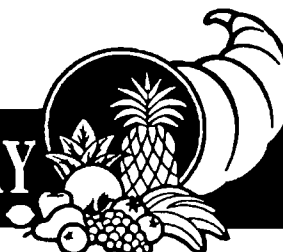


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VIGIL From page 1...

leaving the church, was lead by a large cross draped in long, deep red cloth that trailed through the hands of those in the procession. "Like the AIDS Quilt, this red cloth reminds us of a tragedy," explained Rosen. "We are many in Bernal Heights, each one of us a separate fiber. But our rich diversity, like this cloth, is woven into one piece, making us one."

The procession stretched over two blocks as it continued down Ellsworth Street. By the time the vigil arrived at the intersection of Ellsworth Street and Crescent Avenue, the numbers had doubled to over 250.

"This vigil helps a lot. It's good to know that she was loved by so many in the community," said Mrs. San Augustin's daughter, Cecile. "I know that my mother is at peace...but it still hurts very much to know that the guys who did this are still out there."

"Tonight we are united in our confusion

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Forming

Classes for the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) are now being formed. All concerned residents who would like to help our community to be self sufficient in a major disaster situation through the development of multi-functional teams trained in basic emergency skills are urged to sign up.

Sponsored by the S.F. Fire Department, NERT is organized throughout dozens of neighborhoods in the City to teach individuals hands-on disaster skills that will help them as members of an emergency response team and/or as leaders directing untrained volunteers during an emergency.

Six consecutive classes will be held on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 7 thru Dec. 12 at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Ave. For more information call Vicki Victoria, BHNC, 206-2145.



Mrs. Consuelo San Augustin, 1933-1995.

and anger, but we also have bonded in support," said Father Walsh. "Hopefully this is the beginning of an organized neighborhood response to violence. Unfortunately, it takes the death of somebody to move a community into action."

The two male suspects are identified as between the ages of 14 - 20 years of age with dark complexions. Anyone with any type information regarding this crime is urged to call Sgt. Michael Johnson at the SFPD Homicide Division, 553-9120

**A Time For Healing--
A Community Potluck & Gathering**

Thursday, Aug. 17, 6:30 pm.
The 7/21/95 brutal attack on and death of Mrs. Consuelo San Augustin has left our community angry, scared and confused. This community potluck will be an informal meeting to share our concerns and feelings, strengthen our bonds as a caring community and plan for a safer neighborhood. Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Ave. Call Vicki, BHNC Senior Services for more info: 206-2145.

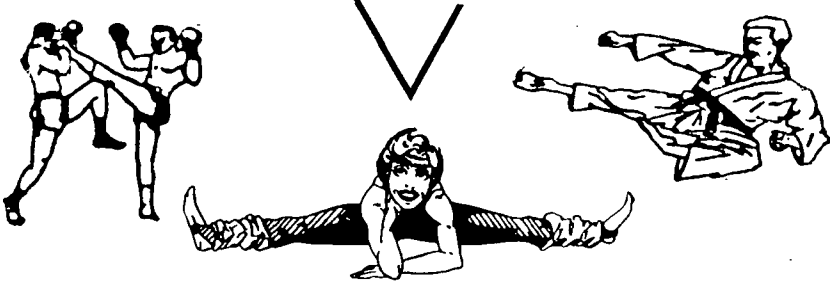
**Memorial Fund in Honor
of Mrs. San Augustin**

A memorial fund is being established in memory of Mrs. San Augustin. Donations can be sent to "Memorial Fund" c/o Bernal Heights Senior Services, 515 Cortland Ave., SF, CA 94110.

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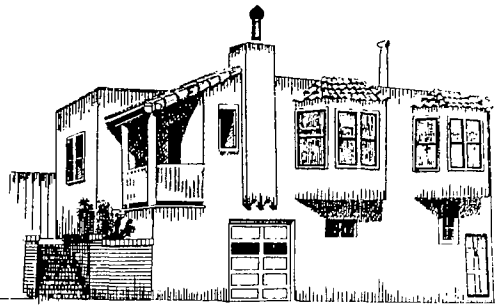


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Proposed power plant endangers the urban family

By Maria Hirano

I took a walk on Bernal Hill with a friend last week. We watched people, young and old, come to stroll, jog and enjoy the company of others. We admired two proud couples who had brought their new born babies to the hill for the first time. As I watched them, I feared that I was looking at an endangered species because, no more than a hundred yards from where we stood, lay the site for the proposed 'Surge Shaft' which would vent toxic fumes from a cross-town tunnel carrying effluence into the ocean. And the area where the couples were standing was also the very spot cited to receive maximum exposure from the proposed power plant in Bayview Hunter's Point.

It makes me wonder if the government is abandoning the urban family and, instead, has decided to support private enterprises which pollute residential neighborhoods. Shouldn't we be decreasing air pollution in urban neighborhoods?

I have lived in Bernal Heights for 20 years, where my husband and I are raising our two children. I am concerned that this proposed power plant will add to the existing pollutants in the air resulting in an increased health risks for new infants, young children, for seniors and for anyone of us who may find out too late that we are susceptible to air pollution.

If we are sincerely concerned about the welfare of our children, we need to begin weighing our demand for development with the harm we inflict on the environment. I urge the California Energy Commission to instead protect the species that they are endangering: the Urban Family.

Bernaltown

A movie for, by and about Bernal Heights, starring Bernal Heights Youth

by Gregory Gavin

Artist-in-residence at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, I changed hats after the Soap box car derby on July 23rd and moved from wood shop teacher to community video maker in the production of a short narrative "movie" tentatively called *Bernaltown*. The entire production, from scripting through editing, will take place in August culminating in a public screening at the BHNC.

If all goes as planned, we will write a script with community input based very loosely on the movie *Chinatown* with a touch of *Mission Impossible*, *Batman*, and the *Power Rangers* thrown in.

The main characters will be a secret team of 9-12 year old superheroes who cruise around in their soap box cars having adventures and saving the day! In this episode they'll rescue the neighborhood by exposing a plot to build a Casino on top of Bernal Hill. Scenes with the kids will be shot in locations all over Bernal Heights from

the Farmers Market to Precita Park as the kids sleuth around to solve crimes. The script will also be written to include cameos by many prominent Bernal characters especially BHNC staff and Cortland Avenue merchants.

I first learned about community based film and video making while working at Charles River Creative Arts Program in Boston — a very well known children's summer arts program where the process was a lot like putting on a play. Members of the community contributed all kinds of talents both on and off stage toward the goal of a fun, if imperfect, finished project. The script was written to take advantage of existing locations in the community. Crowd scenes were really cool. Our premiere of *Bernaltown* will be even better! Please call us if you are interested in being involved — youth or adult.

Call Gregory Gavin at 824-9604, Nicole Hickman at 920-

2691 or Joy Ferguson at 206-2146 for more information about the video project or come to the BHNC for a "job" application.

"Bernaltown" Video Production Meetings at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center every Thursday in August at 4:00 - 6:00pm. We plan to shoot most scenes on weekends and evenings with a possible week long intensive during the week of August 21-26. Call for an updated production schedule.

Youth Jobs

(volunteer, age 14-19 year olds)

Location Scout

Camera Person

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Actors and Actresses (mostly 8-12 year olds)

Costumes

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All Ages, All Levels

Guardian— from page 1...

neighbors across the street were usually home, Lo ran to their house and instructed them to call 9-1-1. While he waited for the fire trucks to arrive, Lo alerted and warned the next door neighbors about the fire.

The unit's tenant Jill Gallagher really appreciated Lo's awareness. "I left for work at 9:00 a.m. and Rick discovered the fire at 11:15 a.m. The fire department suspects it was the work of an arsonist. If no one found the fire early on, it would've gotten a lot worse. Thanks to Rick, the damage was isolated and didn't spread."

Modestly, Lo denies the significance of his role in preventing a bigger disaster, and says that he was just doing his job. Gallagher says that it is this type of concern for the neighborhood which makes Bernal residents really appreciate Rick.

Lo is also highly regarded by the postal service itself, and was selected to represent his organization's commitment to service. Lo was featured in a 60 second commercial that was created for the U.S. Postal Services sponsorship in the 1992 Olympics. The commercial depicted Lo tirelessly climbing the many steep hills of San Francisco to deliver the mail.

"He's really a great guy, always smiling and cracking jokes. And

he also watches our homes—he knows if something's not right," said Mary Foy, a 76 year Bocana Street resident who cares for an elderly brother with Alzheimer's Disease. "I feel a lot safer with Rick around. He helps keep an eye on my brother and stops him if he sees him wandering past our home. He really looks out for us older folks."

Rick frequently checks in on the elderly folks along his route. A couple of years ago he knocked on the door of a frail senior who had just lost her husband. "After I knocked, I heard a her call out 'Help! Call the Police...I've been robbed,'" said Lo. "When the police came, they opened the door and found her on the ground with her legs and hands bound."

Later, Lo found out that the robbers convinced the elderly woman to let them in her house by saying that they were from Kaiser Hospital (where her husband passed away) and that they had come to return a ring that he left behind. Lo sadly shakes his head, "So many elderly people live alone and open the door to anyone saying they're from PG&E or some other story." He hopes that more seniors will take greater precautions by asking unknown visitors for proper

company identification or looking to see if the person is wearing a proper uniform or has a company vehicle.

Although Bernal doesn't get much sleet, snow or hail, residents know that they can count on Lo to deliver their letters, bills, magazines and cereal samples on time. And whether Bernal residents are toiling away at nine to five jobs or enjoying their golden years at home, they can rest easier knowing that they have a guardian in Rick Lo.

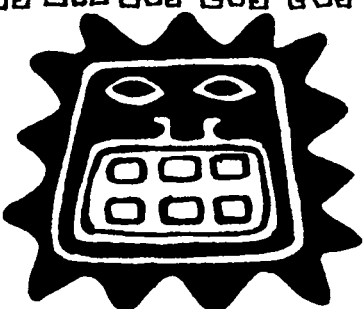
Arsonist sets fire through mail slot

A fire occurred at 215 Bocana Street around 9:00 a.m. on June 27. "They said it was clearly arson—probably a flammable liquid was poured into the mail slot and wooden matches thrown through," said Jill Gallagher, the unit's resident. "We were an easy mark because our mail slot is hidden from street view and there were flammables like a terry cloth rug and bamboo curtain that went up in flames."

Although the fire burned through the floor boards, the damage remained isolated due to the alertness of postal carrier Richard Lo, who found and reported the fire in time.

Gallagher said that Fire inspector George Aldoff informed her of a similar arson fire set several blocks from her home. Gallagher would like residents with mail slots like hers to take precautions against possible arsonists by moving flammable items away from them.

"Although the fire was intentionally set, none of us have any enemies that we know of," said Gallagher of herself and her two roommates. She believes that it was a random act of violence, but has put up flyers around the neighborhood to warn neighbors to keep their eyes open. She also maintains her love and appreciation for Bernal Heights. "I really value my neighborhood and feel really lucky to have such good neighbors who all took interest and action. It's nice to live in a neighborhood that cares."



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Seeds, Weeds and Youth Needs

By Vicki Victoria

On July 8, the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) and the Neighborhood Green Corps celebrated the opening day of the Alemany Urban Mini Farm, the nation's first urban youth farm.

"Festival at the Farm" invited the community to a free barbecue, music and tour of the innovative project located in Lower St. Mary's Park on Alemany Boulevard

and Highway 280. Through the hard work of volunteers, youth and neighbors, this long neglected illegal dumping ground that once was the home to garbage mounds and rusted out abandoned appliances now grows tomatoes, potatoes, flowers and herbs.

In order to promote an identity for the farm and for its youth, a "Name the Farm" contest was held. "Seeds, Weeds and Youth Needs," submitted by Karen Vernon was the name selected from among the dozens of youth entries. "We need to show that we're offering alternatives for youth," said Vernon.

"The farm is unique. I think it's the first one in the country to be part of a park system. We want to make it accessible to, and part of the community," said SLUG's executive director, Mohammed Nuru. "We hope that the farm will connect the Alemany Housing Development to Bernal Heights and the Excelsior."

Fifty youth are now learning valuable job skills by working on the four acre farm, in SLUG's Youth Garden Internship Program.

"The teens work 10 hours per week and learn a project from the ground up while gaining marketable skills," says Colleen Clay, Neighborhood Green Corps Team Leader. "Most of the kids are from the public housing projects. The Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Family provides funding for their wages. While they earn a legitimate source of income, the kids also learn to work together — as a team — instead of against each other in gangs."

"I love it. We're really involved and it's very different as well as relaxing," said Knekeia Parker, a 17 year old resident of the Alemany Housing Development. "In just one week I learned a lot about many different trees and kinds of soil to plant in them."

As SLUG's leader, Nuru says that he has a vision to create more beautiful and productive urban areas in collaboration with all people living in the community.

"I would like to see more areas like this developed into beautiful open spaces—especially so that there is equity throughout the city," said Nuru. "I'd liked to eradicate the racial and economic lines that prevent areas like this from having a beautiful open space or park. Projects like this bring people together as a community."



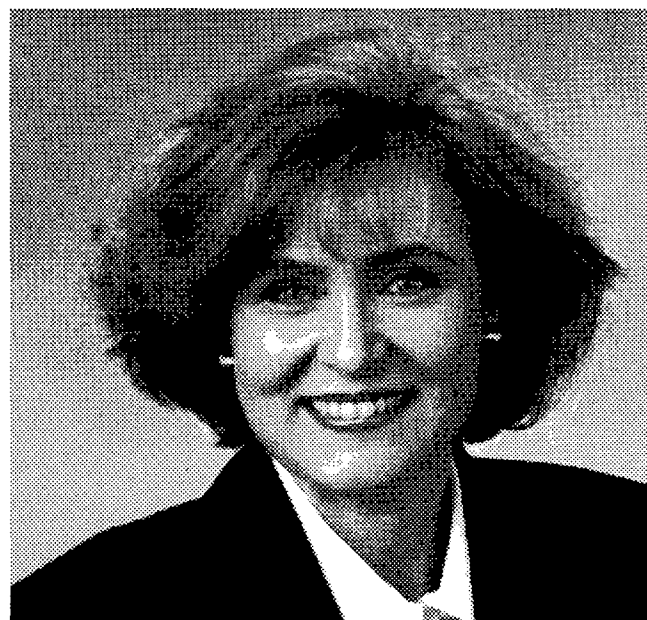
Fifty youth primarily from the area's public housing developments learn valuable job skills by working in the country's first urban youth farm.

Photo by Vicki Victoria

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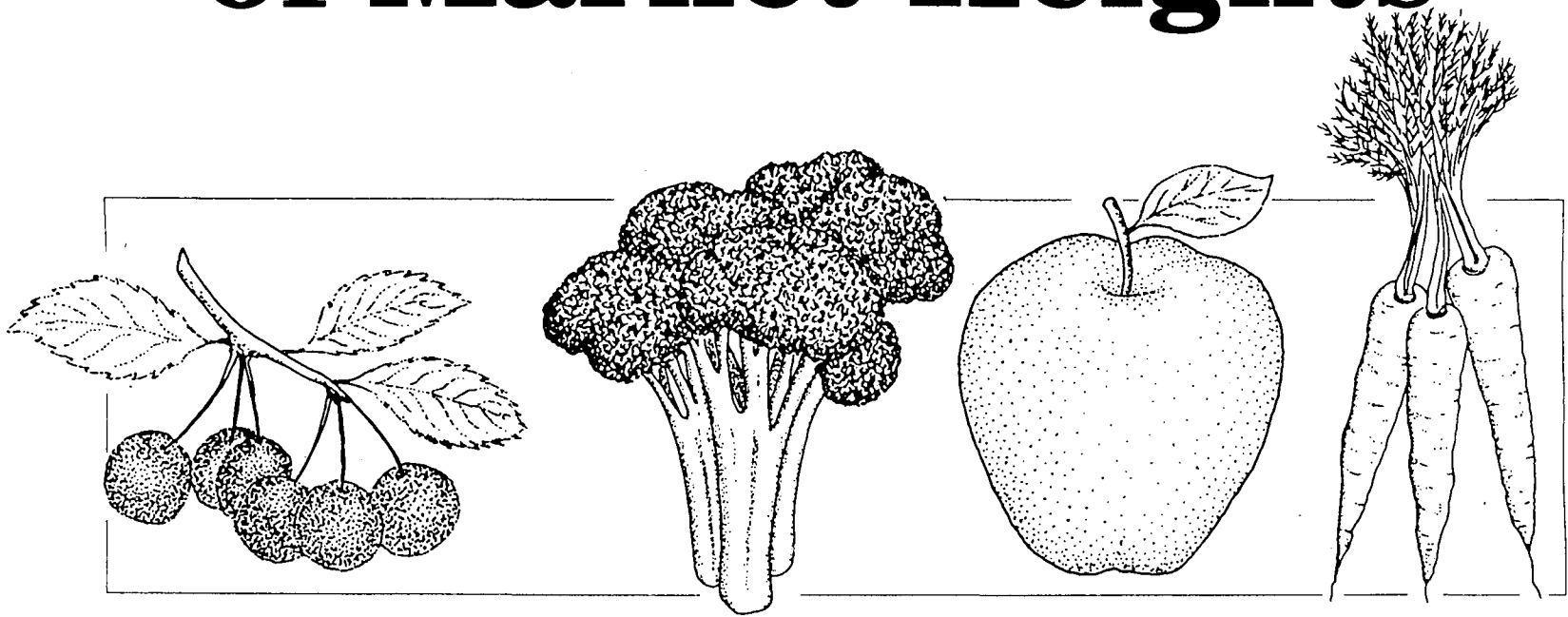


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This notice was paid for by the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation, a non-profit community based agency working with the community of Bernal Heights to build and rehabilitate affordable housing.

For more information about the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation or the Market Heights project, please call Stephen Dunn at (415) 206-2140.

Around the Neighborhood

With Gloria Allen

Academy Award Family

Deadly Deception, the documentary about General Electric's involvement in the nuclear weapons industry, which won the Academy Award in 1992, was produced and directed by Debra Chasnoff, who lives in Bernal Heights on Alabama Street with her family, Kim Klausner, her partner, and their two children, Noah, age 7, and Oscar, 16 months.

On a mild San Francisco summer evening I enjoyed tea and cookies with this warm and lively family. Their home is comfortably messy with the colorful books and toys of active children. I spotted "Oscar" on the mantel. Never having been this close, my hands



Oscar, Kim, Noah and Deborah at home on Alabama Street.

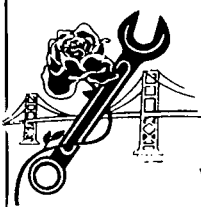
ached to hold him — he's really heavy, and slender too. Debra also shared her scrapbook of that glamorous evening, and then we began to talk about life events, before and after his arrival.

Debra and Kim met in Boston 15 years ago where they both were working at a non-profit video production company on documentaries dealing with social justice issues. Although Debra obtained a traditional education at Wellsley with a degree in economics, she had come of age consciously in the sixties of the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War protests. Debra was regarded as a strong feminist, but to her it simply made sense that men

and women should receive equal treatment and that neither should be intimidated by authority. She worked during the day in a corporate environment and at night she worked on social justice films. Eventually, she could no longer live in this dichotomy and chose to follow her passion from which she has always continued to support herself.

Kim and Debra came to San Francisco on assignment. They were instantaneously drawn to the natural beauty of the city and its tolerant lifestyle. Ten years ago they moved here permanently because they thought this was the best environment for a lesbian couple to raise children in. They particularly liked Bernal Heights because of the variety of cultural backgrounds of other families, sunny warmth and because of its proximity to the Mission.

After the Academy Awards, *Deadly Deception* and 'Oscar' were used for fund-raisers and boycotts of GE, and in November 1993, the corporation stopped the manufacture of nuclear weapons. Currently Debra is working on a documentary about appropriate ways for elementary schools to include discussions of lesbian/gay issues in their curriculum.



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Donate your unused stuff to the Bernal Heights Senior Service's garage sale on 8/12/95. Clean out your closets and garages while helping a good cause! Drop off donations on 8/11 or 8/12 to 515 Cortland Ave. 206-2145.

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Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center News

"What's the Definition of Homophobia?"

by Jess Dugan, Comedy Cabaret Coordinator



Tom Ammiano

"The irrational fear that three gay men will break into your house and redecorate against your will"

—Tom Ammiano

If you didn't make it to the first ever Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center *Comedy Cabaret on the Hill*, be sure to buy your tickets early the next time around so you won't miss the fun. Three outstanding performers donated their time and talent to make the event possible, while wonderful food, a delightful wait staff, and an enticing silent auction complemented the

evening. This fundraising benefit, held at the Neighborhood Center on Saturday, July 29th, was a huge success and a great time for all involved.



Annie Larson

San Francisco Supervisor and well-known comedian Tom Ammiano headlined the show, delivering a smooth, sassy and hilarious routine to an enthusiastic, standing room only crowd of over 150 people. Both Annie Larson, founder of the improv and theater group "Over Our Heads",



Ron Muriera

and Ron Muriera, member of San Francisco's comedy improv group "The National Theater of the Deranged", thrilled the crowd with opening acts of rehearsed and improvised comedy which encouraged audience participation. Master of ceremonies Jeffrey Bachman, BHNC's own Chief Financial Officer, moved the night along without a hitch, while throwing in a delightful array of his own comic zingers.

Party-goers were waited on by a host of efficient (and quite sharply dressed) cocktail waiters and waitresses, while they enjoyed a bountiful

mixture of home-made hors d'oeuvres. At least when they weren't engaged in bidding wars at the silent auction table. The event raised over \$4,000 dollars for Neighborhood Center services. It was made possible through the generous contributions of many individuals and local businesses, as well as a volunteer effort which was beyond impressive:



Some of the fabulous volunteers: (top): Vicki "Not So Silent Auction" Victoria, Carmen "Candy-Miranda" Mendieta, Gareth "007" Barkin, Nic "What'll Yah Have" Griffin, Leslie "Ticket Please" Wozniak. (Bottom): Estella "Lumpia Queen" Egar, Nicole "Place Your Bids" Hickman, Jess "Cabaret Organizer Extraordinaire" Dugan.

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• Individual In-Kind Donations:

Scott Cunningham, Estella Egar, Lisa Feldstein, Marco Garcia, Demece Garepis, Nic Griffin, Michael Moore, Eva Schiorring, Novella Smith, Margaret Wozniak

Comedy Cabaret Volunteers:

Darrel Abraham, Jeffrey Bachman, Maceo Barber, Gareth Barkin, Scott Cunningham, Ellen Dugan, Jess Dugan, Estella Egar, Patricia Fasano, Nancy Fust, Catherine Gallantini, Demece Garepis, Nic Griffin, Helen Helfer, Nicole Hickman, Sumi Imamoto, Toni Klein, Carmen Mendieta, Bernardino Merino, Julian Navarro, Dan Miyake, John Park, Stephanie Pensotes, John Pirruccello, Roland Soriano, Desu Sorro, Vicki Victoria, Leslie Wozniak, Rick Young

Affirmative Action and Diversity in the 90's

by Giuliana Milanese and Helen Helfer

In February the Neighborhood Center sent a letter opposing the state's attack on affirmative action, stating in part... "Affirmative action should be repealed only when we can look at our state's income distribution and see women and men of color and white women proportionately represented at all levels of our society. That is certainly not the case now. It was not the case when our country was founded, nor will it be the case in the future without a strong affirmative action policy in our state and nation."

On Thursday, September 21st we invite you to attend a special **Bernal Heights Action Forum on Affirmative Action**, co-sponsored by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, Bernal Heights Democratic Club, and Californians for Affirmative Action.

A diverse panel will present information on the 1996 "Civil Rights" initiative to stimulate discussion and action on this critical issue:

• **Carlos Munoz**, professor at UC Berkeley, a scholar and activist

• **Phil Hutchins**, former SNCC activist and currently Director of the Center for Ethnic and Economic Policy

• **Molly Martin**, Member of Tradeswomen and Editor of Tradeswomen Magazine

For further information on Affirmative Action and the 1996 legislative initiative, please feel free to call Californians for Affirmative Action at 621-0672. We look forward to seeing you on September 21st, 7:00-9:00pm at the Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue (across from the Library).

Gang Prevention receives funding



BHNC's Mauricio Vela, Center Director and Demece Garepis, Board President receive a check from and Mayor Frank Jordan for the Gang Prevention Program.

After a spirited neighborhood effort to preserve the BHNC's Gang Prevention Program, Mayor Frank Jordan stopped by the Neighborhood Center on June 16th to present a \$30,000 check. This funding renewed the Center's contract to provide counseling and activities for youth at-risk of involvement with gangs.

News from the Housing Corp.

New program to stop childhood lead poisoning

Lead poisoning is the number one cause of environmental poisoning of children in the country. More children suffer from lead poisoning than children who get measles, mumps, or whooping cough combined, yet it is a preventable disease.

The Bernal Heights Housing Corporation kicks off this month a new lead safety program, providing free testing of homes to identify potential lead hazards, and referrals to free testing of children's blood lead levels. We will be sponsoring many educational workshops on lead poisoning and how to prevent it during the months to come. In addition, there is funding available through the Mayor's Office of Housing for free repairs in homes where lead hazards are found and low-income children six years old or younger are present. These grants are available for repairs even if the family living in the building is not the owner of the property.

Safeway at 30th Street and Mission collaborated with Bernal Heights Housing Corporation and St. Peter's Housing Committee making **July Lead Awareness Month** at Safeway. More than 100 families came by the information table to learn more about lead poisoning prevention and to participate in the Safeway \$50 gift certificate raffle. Additional community events are planned for the near future.

Carren Shagley, Bernal Heights Housing Corporation Board President, receives a grant check and an award for BHNC's new scattered-site affordable family housing from Michael Freeland, Citibank Vice President.



Wanted: coordinator for fiscal management seminars

The Bernal Heights Housing Corporation and Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center are looking for a volunteer to help coordinate fiscal management seminars for the community. Seminars planned cover the topics of avoiding loan fraud and basic budgeting skills. This project could provide an excellent learning opportunity for someone interested in fiscal management, business programs, or event planning or would be a valued contribution to the community from someone with more experience.

Bernal Hilltop Native Grassland Restoration Project Honored

On June 2nd the Friends of the Urban Forest honored Barbara and Roland Pitschel and the many volunteers who for the last 25 years have worked monthly to clean and weed Bernal Hill - and since 1986 to plant and restore native grasses.

On behalf of the Neighborhood Center and all the hundreds of neighbors who enjoy the beauty of the Hilltop, thank-you again for all your beautiful work in preserving this Bernal treasure.



Photo by Helen Helfer

Demece Garepis, BHNC Board President, Roland and Barbara Pitschel at the Friends of the Urban Forest Awards in June.

Bernal Heights Action Forum on Affirmative Action

◆ Thursday, September 21, 1995 ◆

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, Bernal Heights Democratic Club, and Californians for Affirmative Action. A diverse panel will present information on the 1996 Civil Rights initiative to stimulate discussion and action on this critical issue.

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
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Don't miss the next issue of the New Bernal Journal:

October, '95 and the November, '95

Submission deadlines: 15th of the preceding month

To advertise call: 208-2144 ■

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center News

Fiesta on the Hill Returns to Cortland Avenue

By Mauricio Vela

It's FIESTA time and we're bringing it to the streets! After six years of celebrating the many accomplishments of our richly diverse community and showcasing Bernal visual and performing artists in the Bernal playground, the BHNC decided to bring the Fiesta back to where it all started in 1980.

Cortland Avenue will be the site of the **7th Annual Fiesta On The Hill** on Saturday, October 23, 1995, and will be transformed with booths, stages, and display tables from Bennington to Andover Street. Local performing artists will be showcased, food vendors will tempt us with their delicacies, and arts and crafts booths will offer the work of local artists for sale. Bernal Playground will again be used for children's and youth activities.

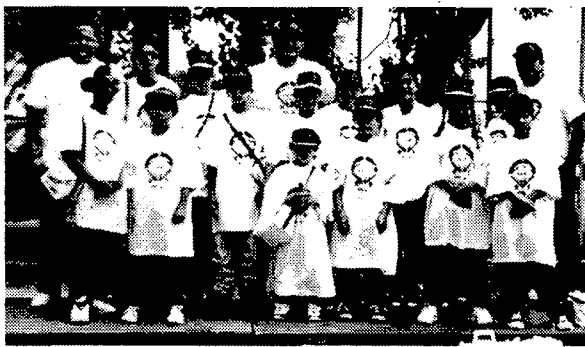
The Fiesta, formerly known as the Cortland Folk Festival, started on Cortland Avenue in October of 1980 and was held annually until the mid eighties when it was discontinued for various reasons. The Fiesta was re-established in 1989 through the work of the BHNC and numerous community sponsors and volunteers.

In recent years the Fiesta has been held in the Bernal Playground with increasing attendance and activities annually. Performance artists such as the nationally acclaimed Dr. Loco's Rockin' Jalapeno Band have drawn more and more people to the event, and it has grown too big for the playground! Following the tremendous success of the '94 Fiesta and with the revitalization our neighborhood, the BHNC decided that the '95 Fiesta will once again be held on Cortland Ave.

The **1995 Fiesta** will be bigger and better than ever. If you'd like to be a part of this fun, "hot" community production, join the Fiesta Committee! Come by the BHNC or call us at 206-2140. Leave a message for Fiesta Coordinator Grace Flannery. Committee work will start in August. Call today! We hope that you participate in **Fiesta on the Hill Saturday on October 21st** on Cortland Avenue. See you there!



Fiesta on the Hill! Sat., Oct. 21, 1995



Bernal youth recognized by Giants

Bernal youth participated in the SF Giants' Youth Recognition Day on July 1 and were treated to t-shirts, caps, bags and lunch. The award ceremony also invited the youth to watch that day's game where the Giants beat the San Diego Padres.

Learning teamwork the Bernal Way

The "Heights" and "Heights II" include 30 neighborhood youth, ages 8 - 13, who play on the BHNC sponsored Junior Giants.

Come out and support our teams!

8/8, 8/9, 8/16, 8/22, & 8/23. Playoffs: 8/29.

Championship: 8/30. All games at Balboa park, on San Jose Ave. off Ocean Ave.



New van needs financial gas

On July 26, State Farm Insurance awarded the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center a grant of \$25,000 to purchase a passenger van that would enable the Center to transport its youth and senior participants to and from activities, appointments and outings.

While the van will provide much needed transportation, the Center still needs to raise funds for its gas, upkeep and insurance. It is hoped that the community will respond, in order to take kids to positive and culturally enriching activities and seniors to medical appointments and grocery shopping.

Please contact the Mauricio Vela at the Neighborhood Center, 206-2140.

Dance activities for swingin' seniors

Enjoy Ballroom and Latin Dancing every Wednesday at 12:45 pm (1:15pm on 1st Wednesdays) at Bernal Heights Senior Services, 515 Cortland Avenue off Andover Street. Dance instructor **Ollie Derzen** can help beginners to glide across the floor, as well as give experienced dancers a few tips on improving their style.

Bob Souza, an incredible one man band, highlights the August 28 **Birthday Party & Dance**, held from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the St. Kevin's Old Hall on Ellsworth Street off Cortland Avenue. Cake, raffle and treats. Admission to the dance is free and a \$1.25 suggested senior meal donation is requested for a turkey luncheon. For more information, call Bernal Heights Senior Services, 206-2145.

The Neighborhood Center encourages **local employers** to hire Bernal youth. If you have any **openings** now or in the future, please call Nicole, our Job Developer, at: 920-2691.



Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Presents a Celebration of our Filipino Heritage

Barrio Fiesta Dinner!

Friday,
6:00 - 9:00 pm
August 25, 1995

A celebration of the song, dance and food of the Philippines

Chicken Adobo, Lumpia, Pancit & Guinatan Dinner

Tickets:
\$10 adults, \$6 seniors/youth
A fundraising benefit for Bernal Heights Senior Services

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco

Tickets or more information call: (415) 206-2145



CAMPAIGN TO MAKE BERNAL PLAYGROUND AN "A+" PLAYGROUND

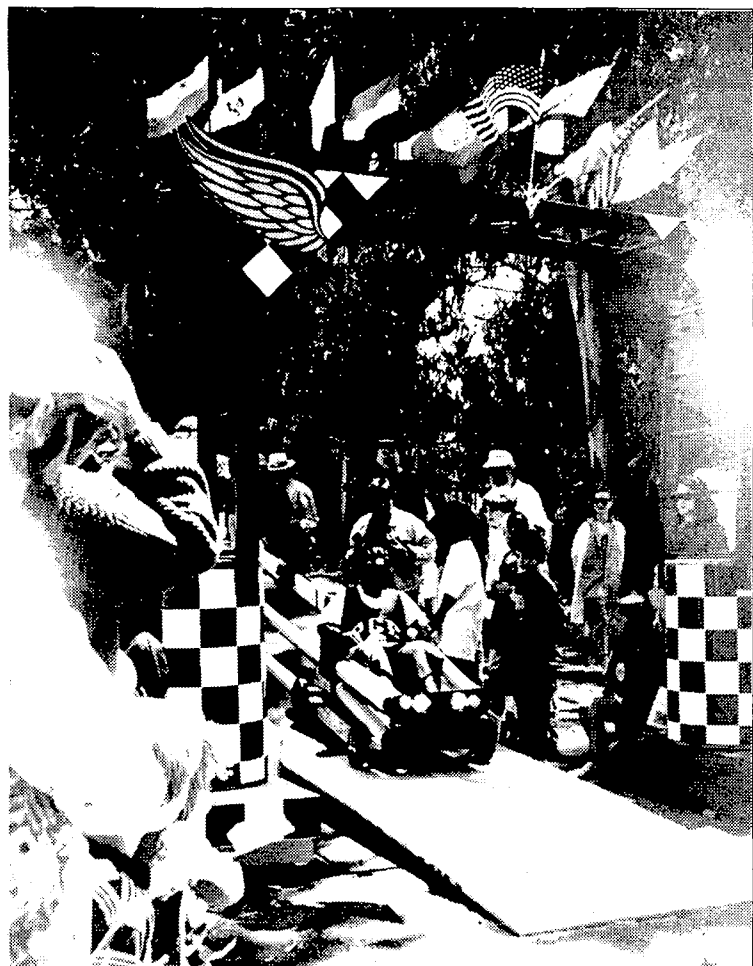
Recently, Bernal Playground received a 'D-' as part of a review by a parents group of Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth. Since 1989 neighbors have been attempting to improve the Bernal Heights playground. Some progress has been made. Since 1992 Bernal Heights neighbors have fought and won monies to renovate the playstructure and gym. This year we are attempting to break ground on the renovation projects and improve programming at the playground. Please help us with your comments.

PLEASE COMPLETE ONE CARD FOR EVERY POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE ACTIVITY YOU OBSERVE AT THE BERNAL PLAYGROUND/GYM OR FILL OUT A CARD TO MAKE GENERAL COMMENTS. PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED CARDS TO THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER OR PLACE IN A FEEDBACK BOX LOCATED AT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Public Library: 500 Cortland, **Nicco's Cafe:** 634 Cortland
Arrow Pharmacy: 439 Cortland, **Four Star Video:** 402 Cortland
Please include your **name, address & phone number** so we may follow up on your comments prior to our presentation at the next Rec. & Park Commission meeting on Thurs., Aug. 17th. For more information, contact Rick at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 206-2152. THANK YOU !!

BERNAL PLAYGROUND FEEDBACK CARD

NAME:
ADDRESS:
PHONE:
DATE WHEN ACTIVITY OCCURRED:
TIME WHEN ACTIVITY OCCURRED:
NAME OF STAFF PRESENT:
(If no staff were present, please enter "no staff present")
COMMENTS: *(Please use additional paper)*



Bernal Heights at the Soap Box Derby

Ten year old Robert Davis from Bernal Heights races through the arch that marks the beginning of the Soap Box derby course at Fort Baker on Sunday July 23rd. Robert, along with twenty five other 9-12 year olds from Bernal and nearby neighborhoods designed and built artistic cars at Will Power Motors with the Neighborhood Center's artist-in-residence Gregory Gavin. The project was co-sponsored by the Bay Area Discovery Museum in Sausalito who organized the Derby. Featuring nearly 100 wildly different car designs the event was really more of fashion show or parade than a speed race. Gavin plans to use the cars this August as a central element in the production of a community based video project called "Bernaltown". See page 4 in this issue...

Bernal Hilltop Natural History

The Grasses of Bernal: Part 2. Ecology of Weedy Grasses

By Barbara Pitschel

In the last issue I wrote about seven of the native grass species that still thrive on Bernal hill. Next we'll look at some of the non-native or 'exotic' grasses that grow there. In this issue, I'll try to explain some of the ecological problems presented by these grasses; in the next issue I'll tell you about some of the individual species of weed grasses that you might encounter on the hill. Many of these are terribly invasive, seriously competing with the remnant populations of native plants in our ecosystem.

The majority of the introduced grasses, and certainly the earliest arrivals, originated in the Mediterranean region of southern Europe, where the climate is very similar to our own. These grasses (and other weeds, such as mustard and filaree) arrived early with the Spanish colonialists, who brought them either inadvertently, in the holds of ships, or intentionally, as crop plants or animal feed. Their early arrival is verified by the fact that they have been found in the binding straw of adobe bricks in the San Diego Mission, built in 1769.

These plants had developed strong survival traits evolving under centuries of overgrazing. Here they experienced the additional advantage of being removed from their natural predators. As they spread throughout California, they proved detrimental to the native perennial populations, which had evolved under a much less intensive grazing regime.

Most of these introduced grasses are annuals. This means that individual plants live through just one growing season, produce enormous seed crops, and then die. Minimal energy is spent on producing root systems for anchor or food storage. Plants shoot up quickly, presenting photosynthetic surfaces, flowers that can be pollinated by wind, and seeds. These are all the plants need. Therefore, seeds are able to take advantage of the first rains to germinate. The plants grow quickly, and massive quantities of seeds are set, often before some of our native perennial species have even begun to bloom.

How is this growth pattern detrimental to the native perennial grasses? Well, the early top growth of the exotics sometimes shades out native seedlings, limiting native grasses' opportunities for seed reproduction. The dead annual grasses from previous years create a deep mulch layer suitable for the exotics but antithetical to the hard, dry, alkaline soils favored by many of the native species. And while the well established bunchgrasses are able to hold their own, there are fewer offspring to replace them when they eventually die of old age.

Although introduced grasses are too thoroughly established in California to ever be eradicated, our Bernal Hilltop Native Grassland Restoration Project work parties do try to exercise limited control.

I hope you will join us at 11:00 am on the third Sunday of each month to help protect our native plants by controlling some of the more invasive exotics. And after you read about specific weed grasses in the next issue, you will be ready to observe them following the early winter rains. Call me at 282-5066 for information and directions.



Avena barbata
(slender wild oats—one of the weed
grasses that grows on Bernal)

Stalking the Wild Bernal Hill

Predators On The Hill: Snakes

By David Graves

On an early morning walk on the hill this past June, I had the unexpected pleasure of meeting a snake — the second I had seen in as many weeks. It was zig-zagging across the road heading downhill, its green and yellow striped body etched against the gray asphalt surface. As I blocked its progress and squatted to take a closer look, it recoiled quickly, as if preparing to attack. Recognizing it to be a common, harmless garter snake, I let it pass out of courtesy toward its need for safety, and watched it slither away gracefully into a sanctuary of tall grass.

Subsequent research indicated that the species I saw was probably the Coast Garter, a sub-species of the Western Terrestrial Garter Snake. I also remembered the snake had a band of muted, reddish color running down both its sides, another characteristic of that particular garter. Garters are known for their aggressive nature, which explained this one responding to my interest by assuming a mock attack posture. I was puzzled, however, by its appearance on a rocky, arid hill, since I knew that most garters characteristically stay close to water. The key to its sighting on the hill is probably seasonal, since in winter the Coast Garter hibernates in rocky terrain, inside fissures or mammal holes, of which Bernal Hill has many. And as it was late spring, following the rainy period, when I came across the snake, it might have just ventured out from its winter quarters in search of a mate.

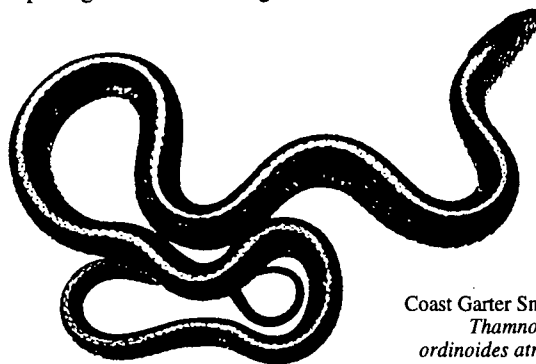
A more spectacular relative and neighbor to the Coast Garter, and regarded by some to be the most

beautiful garter snake in North America, is the San Francisco Garter, declared endangered by the federal government in 1967, and by the state in 1971. A broad, greenish yellow stripe runs the length of its back, bordered in black and flanked on either side by red and black stripes. The top of the snake's head is entirely red and its belly is blue-green. The

adult can grow to a length of 54 inches. Besides its rather psychedelic coloring, the San Francisco Garter is aquatic; its last remaining habitat closest to Bernal Hill lies in the marshy area west of San Francisco International Airport just across Highway 101, an area under

threat of future disturbance by the projected BART extension. A few miles to the northwest, what is now the Serramonte Shopping Mall covers an area of dairy farms that once teemed with San Francisco Garters.

Beginning with the Garden of Eden, both as a symbol and species, the snake has suffered much ill will at the hands of humans. Recent scholarship, however, has cast a more favorable light on this lowliest of creatures, as there are strong indications that the snake was revered by Paleolithic people before the dawn of civilization. In particular, the wondrous ability of snakes to shed their skin seems to have captured the imagination of early humans with its promise of rejuvenation and renewal within the circle of life. Although we urbanized moderns have lost touch with much of the earth, perhaps there is still some part of us that values a world which includes snakes. The only alternative is extinction, which lasts forever.



Coast Garter Snake,
Thamnophis
ordinoides atratus

Bernal kids get booked

Dozens of free books given to young readers

by Dorothy Coakley

The crowds began to arrive earlier than usual on Wednesday, June 28th at the Bernal Heights Library. Some faces were familiar. Others were first timers. Parents brought their children. Children brought their aunts, uncles, sisters and brothers. All had been phoned during the prior week and told to be at the library at 7:00 p.m. sharp. Excitement and nervousness rippled through the crowd: Every child present was here to get "booked."

Sponsored by "Cover To Cover" Bookstore on 24th Street in Noe Valley and the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, children selected as "growing readers" by their teachers, Girl Scout leaders, librarians and other community leaders were individu-

ally presented with a book bag containing posters, bookmarks, other goodies, and BOOKS. Quality hard-back books on the child's favorite subject had been purchased, attractively packaged and tagged with the child's name.

"Karla, Jasmine, Je'Hauri and Carlos" intoned Mauricio Vela as he ceremoniously handed the bag to each child. "Is Marika here? Nicole, David, Dallas...don't forget to sign up for Summer Reading and get a ticket for two to the Planetarium" said I, in my best circus barker voice.

Soon most of the bags were gone. Most of the children had signed up for summer reading. And many of the parents had gotten new library cards. Everyone left the library with a smile on their face. The great Bernal Book-In had ended.

It had begun, months before, as the brainchild of Susan Eggen and Nicky Salan of Cover To Cover Bookstore. A tree (on loan from Planter's Nursery on 24th Street) had been placed in the window of the bookstore with paper apple blossoms hanging

from its limbs. On each blossom was the name of a child, their school, age and interests. Passersby and customers selected (and bought) appropriate books for each child, at which time the blossom was replaced with an apple. Blossoms that had been unclaimed by the end of the time were "grown" into books by the bookstore itself. The customer response was tremendous.

Successful partnerships between the Bernal Library, the BHNC, neighborhood merchants and our citizens have been frequent over the years. We've been able to help Rachel Pepper begin her new bookstore on Cortland by donating storytelling. Model airplane building and flying has been available to the children of the neighborhood for free through the auspices of the library, Nicco's, Hungarian Sausage Factory, the BHNC and Good Life Grocery. We're very proud of the way San Franciscans (and most specifically Bernal Heights citizens) work together. The "Growing Reader" tree at Cover To Cover was just such an example of the strength and impact of our coalitions.

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KQED From page 1...

who grew up on *Sesame Street* and *The Electric Company*. I remember the sponsors being 'the number 6' and 'the letter F'. Now it's just as likely to be Dow Chemical or Exxon, and what's more, you'll have to sit through thirty seconds of self-congratulatory video if you want to see the show they've generously chosen to 'underwrite'. Does that bother anyone else? I think it's terrible. Mr. Weir didn't care much for it either.

"Congress demanded that public television stations go out and start getting these commercial-like things on the air, because they didn't want to support us, just like they don't want to support us now," he explained. I asked him if there were differences between regular commercials and PBS commercials. "We have limitations," he told me, "for example you can show a car driving, but you can't show someone driving it." This statement confuses me even now. Is it supposed to be like alcoholic beverage ads, where you can show the bottle, but you can't show someone drinking it? And yet, last I checked, driving a car was not usually regarded as being an act of moral infamy in the same way that the downing of a brew, understandably, is. Indeed the image of a mobile sedan, mysteriously devoid of pilot or passenger, seems to send the viewing public an ambiguous message at best.

At any rate, it occurred to me that, since ads were being shown, couldn't these corporations now start to exercise their (presumably) evil influence over the programming? And how 'bout the public members, for that matter! Do they not exert undue control based solely on their fickle tastes? (I know I'm pulling my membership the moment they stop showing 'Are You Being Served?' five times a day.) And since the government funding is in jeopardy, I wondered if PBS was bending over backward to please the Washington bigwigs. "Not me," exclaimed Mr. Weir, "but in general in the public television system, I would say yes. When you've got people jumping up and down, saying it's an elite, liberal activity that's biased against conservatives, and against values that traditionalists hold dear — that's going to have a chilling effect. Particularly when those same people making the allegations have their hands on the purse strings." Amazing that he would admit it, I thought, even if we both knew it was true.

If I must confess, and I feel I should, then I've got to tell you that the interview didn't go at all as I had hoped. Mr. Weir was open and honest (as far as I could tell) and didn't back away from any of the tough issues. I went in hoping to pin him to the wall about the commercial thing, but he brought it up before I could ask. "If it walks like a commercial and talks like a commercial, it's probably a commercial," he stated bluntly. Needless to say, I felt disempowered. He was clearly accustomed to asking himself the same questions about the future of public broadcasting that I had hoped to surprise him with. "It's not easy," he confided in me, "I've walked around Bernal Heights a few times, taking my new baby to the top of the hill, thinking 'Where are we going to go?' It's not this year, it's not next year, it's twenty years from now when that kid is in

college — what is public television going to look like? That's the question."

"I know that we tick people off sometimes," he continued, "I know that we don't do what everybody, maybe anybody wants us to do. But I want people to think what it would be like if we were off the air. You wouldn't have anything to complain about anymore, but you wouldn't have anything to inspire you. Because what commercial television is, increasingly, is foul-mouthed talk shows about demeaning subjects, which reduce human beings to their genitals and their violent impulses and their salacious interest in gossip."

Suddenly I realized that I was missing 'Ricki Lake.' Tragedy had been averted, however, by a close friend of mine who tapes the show religiously. Imagine my relief.

My caffeine-deprivation headache indicated to me that the time had come for a second attempt on the coffee. I wasn't going to take any chances fumbling with the screwy top; I was going for an entirely different pitcher. Reaching casually across the table, I grabbed a promising container and promptly spun off the top. Empty. I looked up. Mr. Weir hadn't noticed at all. In fact, he was still talking. I grabbed another pitcher. Empty. I grabbed two more. Empty, empty. That was it. There was no coffee. It was like a coffee mirage. My emotional state changed drastically. I questioned whether I could properly represent the *New Bernal Journal*, or even complete the interview. I questioned whether I could stay awake.

Luckily for me, David Weir was interesting enough to overcome my body's chemical deficiencies. His fearless denouncement of commercial television continued: "ABC once picked up a children's series of ours... it didn't do well in the ratings so they replaced it with a knock-off of *Dumb and Dumber*. For me, that's the metaphor for commercial TV — dumb and dumber. And that's why I'm not in it. Life is too short to be part of activities that reduce the potential of the human spirit. Life is too short. Who wants to create pro-

Garage sales galore on August 12

Bernal Heights will be a bargain hunter's dream on Saturday, August 12 when the Bernal Heights

grams that cater to the lowest common denominator? If there's any meaning to being a journalist, a writer, or a producer, it's to try to enhance the human condition."

You can't argue with that. Well, I suppose you could, but I certainly didn't feel up to it at the time. My worst fears about public television had been quietly confirmed. With the government backing out, corporate America would have to pick up the slack, and they would demand commercial air time. The FCC would be willing. And the specter of sponsor-motivated programming decisions lurked close by. Membership would have to go up, and that means pledge breaks, and interrupted programming. It seems that we are bearing witness to the end of an era in television

Hillwide Garage Sale is held from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Over fifty garage sales at homes and businesses throughout the Hill can be located by picking up a Hillwide Garage Sale Map from the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue at Andover St.

Last year, garage sale shoppers found the Hillwide to be fun, as well as convenient, as they engaged in a sort of treasure hunt by using the garage sale map. Neighbors participating enjoyed getting to know one another and also felt good about donating a portion of their sale's proceeds for a good cause.

The Hillwide is a fundraising event to benefit Bernal Heights Senior Services and their work with frail elders in our community. Donations of items for the garage sale are still needed and can be dropped off at the Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue. For more info: 206-2145.

broadcasting. My generation may well be the last to remember public television as it should be.

Bernal Heights Garage HILLWIDE GARAGE SALE

Saturday 9:00 - 5:00 August 12, 1995

54 Garage Sale Locations!

East Bernal

1664 York St. (Montcalm)

43 Carver St.% (Bernal Hts. Blvd.)

North Bernal

St. Anthony's Church*

3215 Cesar Chavez (Army at Shotwell) (Enter into the school yard)

240 Precita St. (Shotwell)

53-A Manchester St.% (Bessie)

6 Montezuma St.% (Coso)

130 Bartlett St.% (22nd & 23rd Sts.)

North West Bernal

38 Fair St. (Coleridge)

51 Fair Ave. (Mission)

Coleridge Park Homes - 190 Coleridge (Cortland)

South Bernal

125 Prentiss St.% (Powhattan)

3633 Folsom St.% (Eugenia)

240 Gates St. (Cortland)

267 Ellsworth* (Cortland)

463 Ellsworth St. (Jarboe)

137 Anderson St. (Eugenia)

644 Anderson St. (Ogden)

225 Moultrie St.% (Powhattan)

354 Moultrie St.% (Eugenia)

180 Andover St. (Eugenia)

206 Andover St.% (Eugenia)

Handmade Shoes - 813 Cortland Ave. (Ellsworth)

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

515 Cortland Ave. (Andover)

Gifts on the Hill 513 Cortland Ave. (Andover)

Nicco's Cafe 634 Cortland Ave. (Anderson)

86 Wool St.% (Eugenia)

117 Newman St.% (Bennington)

136 Newman St. (Bennington)

47 Newman St. (Bennington)

South West Bernal

233 Bennington St. (Newman)

223 Bocana St.% (Cortland)

250 Bonview St.% (Cortland)

Cortland @ Prospect (Prospect Gardens)

229 Coleridge St.% (Virginia)

331 Winfield St. (Cortland)

135 Park St.% (Mission)

40 Gladys St. * (Appleton)

99 Banks St. (Powhattan)

75 Gates St. (Powhattan)

479 Gates St.% (Tompkins)

402 Ellsworth St. (Jarboe)

131 Anderson St. (Eugenia)

412 Anderson (Jarboe)

640 Anderson St. (Crescent)

307 Moultrie St. (Eugenia)

707 Moultrie St. (Ogden)

147 Andover St. (Eugenia)

300 Andover St. (Cortland)

129 1/2 Ellert St.* (Andover)

130 Newman St.% (Bennington)

148 Newman St. (Bennington)

150 Bocana St.% (Wool)

219 Bonview St.% (Eugenia)

118 A Virginia St. (Lundys Ln)

363 Prospect Ave. (Cortland)

401 Holly Park Cir. (Park)

% = Donated a percentage of proceeds to Senior Services

* = Will also have their garage sale on Sunday, 8/13

• The Bernal Heights Neighborhood of San Francisco •

A Fundraising Event for Bernal Heights Senior Services

For additional maps or more information:

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

515 Cortland Ave., S.F., CA 94110 • (415) 206-2145

Poetry Corner

Untitled

DREAMING OF WARMTH
I SLEEP NEXT TO
THE FIRE.

AWAKE IN COLD ASHES.

MY ACTIONS
AND THE WORDS
I SPEAK
HEX ME A LIAR.

"SUN IN MY DREAM"
"SON OF A KING"
ALL THESE DAYS LIES
BURN ME
AT NIGHT'S FIRE.

ASHES FOR BREAKFAST
SWEAT FOR LUNCH
GOLDEN APPLES
FOR DINNER
DEATH'S DESSERT

—Nada Cortez

Bernal Calendar

Economic Development Coalition Meeting

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Bernal Heights Economic Development Coalition meeting will be held at the Bernal Heights Library conference room, 500 Cortland Avenue. For information, call 920-2692.

Hillside Garage Sale

Saturday, Aug. 12, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Over Bernal Heights fifty homes and businesses will have garage sales throughout the Hill. Stop by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center at 515 Cortland Avenue for free maps. 206-2145.

A Time For Healing—A Community Potluck

Thursday, Aug. 17, 6:30 pm. The 7/21/95 brutal attack on and death of Mrs. Consuelo San Augustin has left our community angry, scared and confused. This community potluck will be an informal meeting to share our concerns and feelings, strengthen our bonds as a caring community and plan for a safer neighborhood. Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Ave. More info: 206-2145.

Citizenship Class

Sat., Aug. 19th and Sat., Sept. 16 at 4:00pm Enjoy the advantages of becoming a US citizen. Co-sponsored with La Raza Centro Legal. At the Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland, 695-5160.

Photo Exhibit

Throughout the month of August. See Kristen a smith's stunning photographs now being displayed at the Barking Basset, 803 Cortland.

Collage Art Exhibit

Throughout the month of August. See Dylan McConnell's Collages currently displayed at The Kelso Cafe, Folsom St. at Precita Park.

Philippine Dinner

Friday, Aug. 25, 6:00 - 9:00 pm. "Barrio Fiesta" celebrates the food, music and dance of the Philippines at this fundraising dinner to Benefit Bernal Heights Senior Services. \$10 Adults, \$6 Senior or Youth. Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center at 515 Cortland Avenue, 206-2145.

Labor Day Bash

Monday, Sept. 4 starting at 4:00 pm. Come to the Wild Side West for Labor Day food and fun. 424 Cortland, 647-3099.

Hungarian Dancing

Saturday, Sept. 30 at 9pm. Tanchaz featuring Forgacs Ensemble at The Hungarian Sausage Factory. 419 Cortland. \$5.00. 648-2847.

Live Music with The Jug Band

Every Tuesday 7 - 9 pm at The Deli Pub. 301 Cortland, 285-1631.

Live Music at Night

International Folk Music, Tuesdays. Featuring Bohemia playing International Folk Music, Gypsy Music and Jazz. **Jazz Guitar**, by Alex Candelaria on Fridays. **Synthesizer Music**, Saturdays features Central European restaurant Music. **Hungarian Gypsy Violinist**, Sundays. The Hungarian Sausage Factory, 419 Cortland. 648-2847.

Bingo

Every Wednesday Bingo at St. Kevin's. Games include Safari, Criss-cross, Good neighbor. Doors open at 6:00 pm. First game at 7:30pm Old Hall: on Ellsworth btwn. n Jarboe & Cortland.

Bernal Library Activities

Spanish Conversation, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 pm. All levels of Spanish speakers. **Spanish Conversation Social** meets on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at



Tibor & Lena play Hungarian Gypsy Music regularly at the Hungarian Sausage Factory, 419 Cortland.

7:00 pm. Practice your Spanish conversation skills over some hot Mexican cuisine. **Homework Center**, Every Tuesday Night 7-9PM. New at the Library. Kids of all ages are welcome. **Library Family Night**, every Wednesday at 7:30PM is Family Night at the Library. Story hour, films, crafts, and entertainment for the whole family. **Children's Story Hour**. Ongoing program every Thursday at 10:30AM. Thirty minutes of reading for pre-schoolers. **Book Club**. The adult reading group meets monthly to discuss a new book. August's book is Thomas Mann's "Buddenbrooks". Discussion on Thurs., Aug. 31 at 4:00 pm. September's book is Larry McMurtry's "Streets of Laredo". Discussion on Thurs., Sept. 28 at 4:00 pm. **Chess Club**. Every Friday at 4pm. New Chess Club starting at the Library. Girls especially encouraged. Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland, 695-5160.

Special Library Events

Painting Nature, Tues., Aug. 8, 2:00 pm. The De Young Museum Ambassadors visits with a crafts program for kids. **Lizard Lady Brings Her Friends**, Tues., Aug. 15 at 2:00 pm. Limited audience, so sign up early. **Making Masai Masks**, Wed., Aug. 23 at 3:00 pm. Madeline Dunphy hosts a program about Masai culture and life for kids ages 7-9. At the Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland, 695-5160.

Children's Story Time at Bernal Books

Wednesdays, Aug. 16 and Sept. 20 at 11:00 am, features stories and songs with local actress **Sophie**. Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 11:00 am with **Dorothy**, Bernal Heights' beloved children's librarian reads for young children. At Bernal Books 401 Cortland, 550-0293.

SKY - St. Kevin's Youth

St. Kevin's Youth Program. Monday, Aug. 21st at 7pm. Meet at Old Hall (entrance on Ellsworth between Jarboe and Cortland) Starting on Sept. 11th SKY will be meeting every Monday at 7:00 pm.

Bernal Heights groups, merchants, schools, block clubs and non-profits are invited to submit their special events and meeting announcements in the Bernal calendar. Small photographs or graphics may be considered as space allows. Please submit your announcements by 9/22/95 to New Bernal Journal, 515 Cortland Ave., SF, 94110 or call Kristin Hofso at Brown Bear Realty: 285-5700.

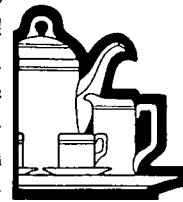
The Bernal Beat Bernal Heights Merchant News

by Elizabeth Robinson

On a sunny Saturday afternoon a man walks into an airy cafe with a huge bunch of flowers; "I don't know how long you guys have been here" he says, handing the flowers over the counter, "but I just want to welcome you to the neighborhood." Such is the affection that greets the new **Cafe Kelso**, which opened Saturday July 15th - an affection that I can see myself succumbing to pretty quickly.

With coffee cups the size of soup bowls, and free refills, Kelso promises to be a very attractive addition to the north slope of Bernal Hill, for cafe lizards everywhere. Its popularity is already undeniable. "The neighborhood's been awesome" says Dave Belt, who with partner Ron Specter owns the new cafe. "Right from when we started building they've been so supportive."

And what's not to support? Graced with beautiful decor by designer John Wischman, Cafe establishment as you could delicious (Jeremiah's Picks, very friendly, and the Sandwich (\$5.50) harmoniously composed of thin prosciutto slices, soft fresh red onions, tenderly per-fresh basil... I know I'm



really, try it, it's jolly good. Another popular choice is the Smoked Turkey Sandwich (\$4.50). I'm having that the next time I go. Sandwiches come served with artichoke hearts, green olives and marinated red peppers on the side, and all the vegetables are organic. Belt told me that once they get up and running, he wants to introduce more soups and vegetarian dishes, not to mention Tom's Peasant Pies, which are soon to make an appearance.

The interior was inspired by a 600 mile tour of California's ghost towns, and is enhanced by many of the original elements belonging to its previous incarnation: a butcher shop. Also going for it is Kelso's great art work, created by Dylan McConnell, who has already been invited to show pieces at an exhibit in New York, having been discovered at Kelso.

Judging by the crowd of young hipsters talking animatedly over their coffee bowls, Cafe Kelso should be a roaring success. The atmosphere, the quality of the fare, and the subtle decoration make it one of the nicest cafes I have been to. And don't visit Cafe Kelso without a trip to their interesting restroom. I shall say no more.

For a change of pace, you might want to try Mission Street's new **Stimulus Cafe**. With its homemade smoothies (\$3) and energetic World Music, Stimulus is perfect for those who prefer a more charged atmosphere. "We called it Stimulus because we wanted something modern, and we wanted people to be stimulated by the atmosphere and the art work as well as the caffeine" says owner Marc Galvan, who with partner Art Weldon opened the new cafe on July 1st. So far, Galvan says that the opening of the cafe has been relatively problem-free, and he seems unperturbed by the early closure of Stimulus' predecessor, Mad Fish. "All the comments have been positive" he told me. "A lot of people on the street are supporting us, as well as people from the hill."

Galvan and Weldon are hoping that their cafe will be a center for new art, so all you local artists out there, grab your portfolios and dash down to see them. Writers, poets, performers and musicians are also invited to contact them, for upcoming performance nights. Included in their plans for the future is the introduction of SFNet, so that patrons of the cafe can chat with cafe patrons around the globe. A large selection of teas, as well as salads and sandwiches are also due to make an appearance soon.

So if you're on your way to work, or just in need of a quick wake-up at any time of day, stop by Stimulus and prepare to be invigorated. Or escape noisy Mission Street on the quieter side of Bernal Hill with a bowl of great coffee and a fresh organic lunch at the stylish Kelso. Either way, you'll be experiencing the blossoming cafe scene of Bernal Heights.

Power Plant - from page 1...

people are getting worried.

Gunilla Napier, school nurse for Malcolm X Academy in Hunters Point, explains, "I am deeply concerned about the possible effects that a new power plant in BV/HP could have on the health of those working and living in the community. Respiratory difficulties, particularly asthma, occur at high levels among the children attending Malcolm X."

The real issues

The major points of opposition to the power plant are:

- The new plant will be spitting out 312 lbs./day or 54 tons a year of fine dust particles that cause asthma and other respiratory illness.

- The new plant will not replace any of the old plants.

- The new plant would be creating yet another risk for the community due to the storage and

transfer of highly toxic hazardous materials.

- There is no way SF Energy can guarantee 50% of the jobs will go to Bayview/Hunters Point residents.

- Bechtel Corp. is the general contractor on the project, known for bringing in their own contractors.

- There are at least 200 sites in Bayview/Hunters Point known to be either toxic waste sites, underground leaking storage tanks, or are licensed to store hazardous materials.

- Bayview/Hunters Point has the highest rate of asthma, bronchitis and respiratory illness in San Francisco.

For the health of our communities we can not allow this plant to be built.

If you would like more information on the proposed power plant or would like to join the opposition

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James Lick Middle School (Noe/Clipper)

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Let the candidates know that Bernal Heights
is a strong neighborhood with important issues!

Power Plant - from page 14...

tion, please call the Southeast Alliance for Environmental Justice (the grassroots neighborhood group that has organized to oppose the power plant) at 824-4102.

For Bernal Heights opposition against the power plant and the crosstown tunnel and sewer shaft, call Beth Abrams at 282-6177.

Environmental Alert Meeting

What: Community meeting and updates on the proposed power plant and cross-town tunnel.
When: Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 7:00 - 9:00 pm.
Where: Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland.
Look for flyers that will be posted in the community.

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M-F 7am-9pm
SAT 8:30am-7pm
SUN 8:30pm-5:30pm
821-9435



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